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concerned herself overmuch with European interests, and ought to consider her own first. The lines which Dryden wrote after the treaty of Ryswick expressed the feelings of the Whigs during the period which followed 1815 as truly as they expressed those of the Tories at the time when they were written.

Enough for Europe has our Albion
fought;
Let us enjoy the peace our blood has
bought.¹

So the peace which lasted for the next forty years was employed in domestic reforms, and schemes for domestic reforms. What Disraeli termed 'the condition of England question' engrossed the minds of Macaulay's contemporaries, and the affairs of Europe were almost forgotten. As little did most men think of the new colonies which were growing up to replace those lost in the previous century. In short, between 1815 and 1850 England was very self-centred, and Macaulay, like other historians, was influenced by the tendencies of his time.

It may be said that the position of Germany was similar to that of England; the Germans too were slowly recovering from the results of a whole generation of great wars, and chiefly concerned with their domestic affairs. Yet Ranke, born only five years before Macaulay, was the most cosmopolitan of historians. On the other hand a politician was naturally more influenced by the conditions of his time

than a man who gave up his whole life to
historical studies,
and aimed at founding a school of scientific
historians.

Macaulay admitted, with his usual frankness,
the narrow-
ness of his standpoint, and was surprised at
the success of
his History outside England. ^c I am almost
as much
puzzled as pleased ; for the book is quite
insular in spirit.

There is nothing cosmopolitan about it/ ²

¹Epistle the Fifteenth. To John Driden.

Written in 1699,

²Trevelyan, ii. 390.